

## Renovation Update

The second phase of the first floor Reading Room renovation is under-way. The most visible addition planned for the Fall is a **raised floor for the computers** used by patrons to search the Library's electronic resources. This will permit the computers to easily be reconfigured when needs change.

The Reading Room will be recarpeted and **new, stronger shelving** for the **reference** and **recent journal** collections will be installed at the same time the carpet is laid. In the last few years, several shelves in the five year journal collection have collapsed. All shelves have had to be reinforced. **Replacement** has become a **critical** need.

Finally, **Chemical Abstracts** is being **moved to the B1** level and will be shelved in open stacks outside the Training Room next to the compact, movable shelving. That will leave only Science Citation Index and 5 years of Index Medicus on the index tables near the Information Desk.

The Library plans to be **open**

### Grateful Med (Mac)

Grateful Med **Mac** Users: Grateful Med **version 2.3** is **now available!** The new version corrects the **loansome doc error** messages that now occur with version 2.2. Copies of the software can be downloaded from the Library's Home Page or from Pubnet. It can also be obtained from the Library — bring 3 formatted 3½" disks to Room 1L-21. Questions, call 496-1156.

**throughout the renovation**, but at times it will be dusty, noisy and disruptive on the first floor. There will even be a short period when recent journals will be unavailable, or be accessible on a very limited basis. We will do our best to give patrons ample **warning about any major disruptions**, so they can work around them and avoid using the Library, if they choose.

Please bear with us. By early 1997, the Library should be back to normal, but better prepared and configured to support your information needs.

## E-Journals: To Be?

Every day a different publisher or scientific organization announces that it will be making its **publications** available **on the World Wide Web**. How does the Library decide which to acquire and make available to NIH staff? Obviously we want to select those journals with the **highest usage** and of greatest interest to the **largest number of researchers**. To do this the Library's **Electronic Resources Committee (ERC)** considers several factors.

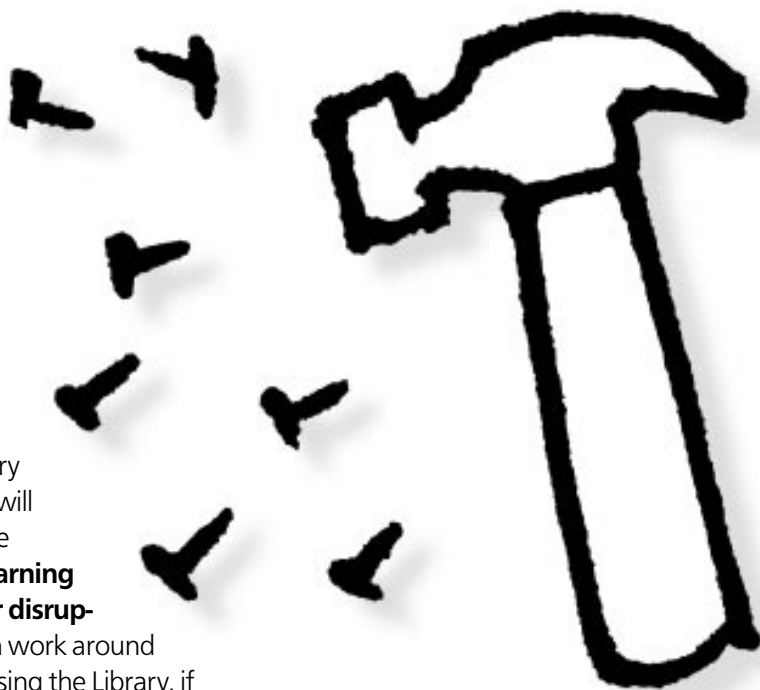
First, the ERC determines whether a print version of the electronic journal exists. If it does, they then look to see if it appears on the list of the **350 most used journals** in the Library's journal

collection.

Next the ERC makes sure that the electronic version is the **same as the print version**, including all graphs, tables, and figures. It also determines whether using the journal requires installing additional software on a user's computer, or whether access can be had without requiring a password.

Because of difficulties networking CD-ROM products and the amount of storage required to use them, **preference** is given to journals available via the **WWW** or via **direct connection** to a remote site.

Once the evaluation is complete and a decision to subscribe to the electronic version of a journal is made, the appropriate **links** are **added to** the Library's **Web site**. You can find the list



**E-journals stories  
continued on back**

of currently available journals by going to [libwww.ncrr.nih.gov](http://libwww.ncrr.nih.gov) and choosing **Electronic Resources**. From the Table of Contents choose **Online Journals**. Then select either **Journals with WWW Sites** or the Core Bio-medical Collection.

## ...Or Not to Be?

A look at two publishers, one an association publisher, the other a commercial publisher, illustrates the role price plays in the decision to subscribe to an e-journal.

High Wire Press is the electronic publisher of **JBC and Science**. Members of the associations sponsoring these journals often can obtain a subscription at a very **reasonable price**. AAAS, for example, recently announced that the full text of *Science* will be available to AAAS members who pay an additional \$12.00 with their annual membership fee. Or the Library can pay a larger, institutional fee as it does for *JBC* and provide **access for all NIH staff**.

When deciding on the merits of an e-journal from an association publisher, price is rarely a barrier. The Library can base its **decision solely on content, technical capabilities, and user demand**.

Commercial, **for-profit publishers**, on the other hand, are fearful of losing revenue from cancellation of

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You may also subscribe to the listserv from the Library's Home Page under Electronic Resources. To those who already subscribe, please note the new address.

Questions, call 496-1156.

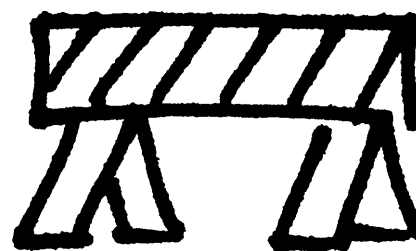
print subscriptions. Consequently, pricing electronic versions of their journals is intended to **protect or preserve the current revenue base**.

A look at Academic Press' APPEAL service will illustrate this. APPEAL potentially provides Internet access to all Academic's print journals. Pricing for APPEAL, however, is tied to the number of **print subscriptions an institution as a whole** had to Academic Press journals in 1994.

What does this mean for NIH? First, in 1994, NIH, not including NLM, paid for 326 subscriptions to Academic Press journals. No doubt as many as 250 of these subscriptions duplicated those held by the NIH Library, so a subscription to APPEAL would require NIH to **continue paying for this duplication**.

Second, between 1994 and 1996, in an effort to save money, several ICDs canceled subscriptions. By basing its price for e-journals on the number of print subscriptions NIH had in 1994, Academic in effect **restores these canceled subscriptions**.

Add to these factors the enormous task of **coordinating payment** among the 22 different ICDs who ordered Academic Press journals in 1994 and hopefully it will be easy to understand why the NIH Library, like MIT's libraries, find it virtually **impossible to acquire** e-journals from Academic press despite the utility and content of the journals, and the elegance of APPEAL's Web interface.



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Saturday 8:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m.  
Sun & Hol 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

On some holidays, hours are 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (announced in advance)

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